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Otto William Heick

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BOOKS IN REVIEW

*DEUS INCARNATUS: DIE ZWEINATURENLEHRE
LUTHERS BIS 1521*

DOROTHEA VORLANDER

Printed by Luther Verlag,
Witten, 1974, 241 pp.

This study is published as volume 9 in *Untersuchungen zur Kirchengeschichte* (Research in Church History) edited by Robert Stupperich. Written in German with numerous quotations in Latin, it requires a fair reading knowledge of both languages.

Both Protestant and Catholic scholars are agreed that Luther put new life into the Creed of Chalcedon of the Two Natures of Christ in One Person but they hold divergent opinions as to how Luther interpreted and accepted the Chalcedonian formula. In the eyes of some, Luther's Christology bears primarily an ontological thrust. According to others, Luther's concern for the doctrine of Christ is rooted in the Reformer's view of justification: it is basically motivated not by religious speculation but by a practical concern for the Christian life.

In the main part of the book the author gives a careful analysis of all the earlier writings of Luther. She concludes by saying that the period under discussion, with its expression of the doctrine of the Two Natures of Christ, was a real concern for Luther because of his discovery that, on the basis of Romans 1:17, man is saved by faith. Justification by faith — his *theologia crucis* — as well as his teaching of the church and the sacraments are closely tied to the Creed of Chalcedon. In short, the Creed was for Luther an expression of his personal faith.

Otto W. Heick